

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/990,188

Examiner

Sana Al-Hashemi

Applicant(s)

TUNSTALL-PEDOE, WILLIAM

Art Unit

2161

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5/3/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-42.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 21 November 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


ALFORD KINDRED
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is issued in response to applicant Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed 4/08/2005.
2. Claims 1, 21, and 39, have been amended. Claims 43-86 were canceled. No new claims were added.
3. Claims 1-42 are allowed.
4. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on July 21, 2004 has been entered.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

5. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Joseph Villeneuve on May 3, 2005.

Authorization for Examiner's amendment

Examiner Sana al-Hashemi is hereby authorized to amend claims 1 and 21 of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/990,188 as follows:

Please replace Claims 1, and 21 with the following:

1. (Currently amended) At least one computer-readable medium having computer program instructions embodied therein for interacting with at least one knowledge base, the at least one knowledge base having data stored therein representing first knowledge about a plurality of objects using a plurality of relationships between pairs of the objects ~~and temporal data representing temporal validity for at least some of the relationships~~, the computer program instructions comprising:

first computer program instructions operable to interact with the at least one knowledge base and, in response to a query having a predetermined format, generate second knowledge not represented in the at least one knowledge base from the first knowledge, the data representing the first knowledge including temporal data representing temporal validity for at least some of the relationships; and

second computer program instructions operable to respond to the query using at least one of the first knowledge and the second knowledge.

21. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for interacting with at least one knowledge base, the at least one knowledge base having data stored therein representing first knowledge about a plurality of objects using a plurality of relationships between pairs of the objects ~~and temporal data representing temporal validity for at least some of the relationships~~, the method comprising:

interacting with the at least one knowledge base and, in response to a query having a predetermined format, generating second knowledge not represented in the at least one

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knowledge base from the first knowledge, the data representing the first knowledge including temporal data representing temporal validity for at least some of the relationships; and
responding to the query having a predetermined format using at least one of the first knowledge and the second knowledge.

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding independent claims 1, 21, and 39, the prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest the claimed provision of: first computer program instructions operable to interact with the at least one knowledge base and, in response to a query having a predetermined format, generate second knowledge not represented in the at least one knowledge base from the first knowledge, the data representing the first knowledge including temporal data representing temporal validity for at least some of the relationships; and second computer program instructions operable to respond to the query using at least one of the first knowledge and the second knowledge, combined with the rest of the limitations in the independent claims, is not taught or suggested, or rendered obvious over the prior art of record or that encountered in searching the invention

The dependent claims 2-20, 22-38, and 40-42, being further limiting to the independent claims, definite and enabled by the Specification are also allowed.

Comments

The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. In no case may an applicant reply outside the SIX (6) MONTH statutory period or obtain an extension for more than FIVE (5) MONTHS beyond the date for reply set forth in an Office action. A fully responsive reply must be timely filed to avoid abandonment of this application.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

As allowable subject matter has been indicated, Applicant's response must either comply with all formal requirements or specifically traverse each requirement not complied with. See 37 CRF 1.111(b) and MPEP section 707.07(a).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Other Prior Art Made of Record

1- Ahmed et al. (US Patent No. 5,809,493) discloses a knowledge processing system employing confidence levels.

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2- Paik et al. (US Patent No. 6,263,335) discloses a Information extraction system and method using concept-relation-concept (CRC) triples.

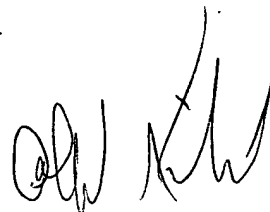
3- Busey et al. (US Patent No. 6,377,944) discloses Web response unit including computer network based communication.

4- Preston (US Patent No. 6,446,081) discloses a Data input and retrieval apparatus.

Points of Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sana Al-Hashemi whose telephone number is (571) 272-4013. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic, can be reached on (571) 272-4023. Any response to this office action should be mailed to: The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231. Or telefax at phone number (703) 872-9306. For formal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT". Hand-delivered response should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, 6th Floor Receptionist, Arlington, Virginia. 22202.

Sana Al-Hashemi
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2100
May 3, 2005



ALFORD KINDRED
PRIMARY EXAMINER